

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,554,980 to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter "Hashimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,227,687 to Kahwaji (hereinafter "Kahwaji"). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for at least the reasons set forth below.

Hashimoto teaches a remote control unit for use with a controlled unit, such as a monitor. The remote control unit has a motion detector and a transmitter. The motion detector detects the motion of the remote control unit and transmits the same through the transmitter to the controlled unit. A controller in the controlled unit receives the motion detection signals from the remote control unit and moves a cursor on a display screen accordingly to correspond with the detected movement of the remote control unit.

Kahwaji teaches an interleaved illumination support. The support has a base and a wire coupled to the base. Beads are attached to the wire to fix leafs thereon which maintain the wire in tension. The beads are disclosed as being solid objects, such as fishing weights, having a bore for stringing the same on the wire.

In the Official Action, the Examiner engages in a rather fanciful interpretation of Hashimoto and Kahwaji to defeat the patentability of the claims. The Examiner argues that Hashimoto discloses all of the features of independent claims 1, 6, 12, 14, and 17 with the exception of the objects (or tokens) being beads connected by a wire, for which he cites Kahwaji. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation of both Hashimoto and Kahwaji.

With regard to Hashimoto, the same does not disclose or suggest the "at least two objects, each associated with a respective data set consisting of at least one datum" as recited in independent claim 1. Hashimoto further does not disclose or suggest, "a mechanically connected combination of tokens, each associated with a data set" as recited in independent claim 6. Hashimoto further does not disclose or suggest "tokens, each corresponding to a set of criteria pertaining selectively to a subset of said data" as recited in independent claim 12. Hashimoto still further does not disclose or suggest "encoding tokens with unique identifiers" and "storing an address on a communication station, said address pointing to a respective data set for each of said tokens" as is recited in independent claims 14 and 17.

With regard to Kahwaji, the same discloses simple solid beads strung on a wire, Kahwaji does not disclose or suggest the objects (or tokens) recited in the claims. Kahwaji also does not disclose where the at least two objects "are tokens connected by a chain, a wire, string, or filament" or wherein said at least two objects "are beads." The beads of Kahwaji are actual beads, not the objects or tokens having the recited features in independent claims 1, 6, 12, 14, or 17 as discussed above and having a form of a bead.


Thus, independent claims 1, 6, 12, 14, and 17 are not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Hashimoto patent, nor the Kahwaji patent, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the user interface, system or methods having the features described above. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 12, 14, and 17 patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Claims 2-5, 7-11, 13, 15, 16, and 18, being dependent upon claims 1, 6, 12, 14, and 17, are thus allowable therewith. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Lastly, claim 11 has been amended to make the same dependent from independent claim 6. No new matter has been entered into the disclosure in doing so.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Encl. (Version with Markings to Show Changes Made)



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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claim 11 has been amended as follows:**

11. (Amended) A user interface as in claim 6, wherein each of said tokens has a device containing a code uniquely identifying said token such that said controller can distinguish between said tokens.

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